Course Description
The purpose of this course is to provide students with initial insight into their strengths and weaknesses in pronunciation and to assist students in improving their comprehensibility. Focused practice on specific problem areas will be provided in class. Students will learn and practice strategies for improving intonation, stress, rhythm, pacing, and non-verbal communication for the effective delivery of oral presentations, for leading seminars, and also for interacting in informal and professional contexts.

Course Objectives
Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:
- Understand how individual sounds (Vowels & Consonants) are made.
- Understand the roles that Stress, Rhythm, and Intonation play in effective communication.
- Improve their communication of ideas through a range of strategies.
- Use a variety of expressions (formal and informal) to express ideas.
- Communicate more confidently in English.

Assignments
Details of all assignments will be provided in class.

Attendance & Letter of Completion
Students will receive a "letter of completion" at the end of this course, providing s/he attends a minimum of 80% of classes (8/10 classes). Please note that there will NOT be a record of this course on your U of M transcript.

Grading
Although homework will be assigned, assignments/presentations will not be formally graded. Instead, you will receive constructive feedback from the instructor. The emphasis in this course is on student improvement in the language areas covered in class.

What Will I Learn In Class?
Pronunciation
- Individual Sounds (Vowels & Consonants)
- Speech Features (Stress, Rhythm, Intonation)

Informal Contexts
- Common Phrases
- Beginning a Conversation

Formal Speaking Module
- Patterns of Organization
- Agreeing/Disagreeing
- Hedging
- Impromptu Responding to Questions
- Delay Tactics: What to say to give yourself time to think
- Using Visual Aids (Time Permitting)
- Oral Grammar (Time Permitting)

Delivery Skills Module
- Building Confidence
- Non-Verbal Communication
- Voice/Volume
- Pauses

Organization Module (Time Permitting)
- Outlining / Mapping a Speech
- Presentation Structure
- Transitions Between Ideas